

### ***Education Finance Focus Group***

In response to key question:

*How can resources be linked to performance goals and student outcomes?*

Idea # 3 - Based upon the requirements of the state standards and federal No Child Left Behind act, conduct a comparative study of Hawaii laws, BOE policies, and funding levels to assess alignment of resources with state standards and NCLB.

#### **Why this is important?**

The Hawaii State Constitution provides policy-making authority to the elected Board of Education. However, the Legislature and the Governor have controlling authorities over how resources are appropriated and subsequently allocated to the Department and then to the schools. Since authorities are fragmented amongst three entities, it is unlikely that resources will be aligned with agreed upon state goals. With the passage of federal No Child Left Behind, the Hawaii State Content and Performance Standards becomes Hawaii's agreed upon measures of student achievement. Thus, both existing and additional resources need to be aligned to support student achievement of the standards, and other initiatives need to be integrated or repealed to prevent resources from being fragmented.

#### **How will it impact student achievement?**

This study will allow the Board of Education and the Department to identify where resources are allocated that can be re-directed into supporting the standards, or where funding levels are insufficient and thus would be priority requests to the Governor and to the Legislature. It would also require the Governor and the Legislature to critically review requests for alignment with the standards and support those requests that are mandates of both federal and state law.

#### **Action Needed to Implement**

Update the Statutory Review Initiative from Hawaii Business Roundtable's Collaborative Action for Public Education. Compare statutes with BOE policies for consistency and support of the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards. Review state budget requests, appropriation acts, and DOE allocations for two to three biennium budgets to ascertain funding levels for implementation and assessment of the Standards.